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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
4 JUNE 1954

MEMORANDUM TO: Deputy Director (Intelligence)

SUBJECT : Soviet "Type 37" and "Type 39" Jet Bombers

1. In a series of six practice fly-bys from 18 April through 28 April and in the May Day air parade, the Soviet Union officially unveiled two new jet aircraft, a four-engined bomber, designated "Type 37," and a twin-engined bomber, designated "Type 39." Only one "Type 37" was displayed, suggesting that this aircraft is in the prototype stage. Although nine "Type 39's" were flown on May Day, as many as eleven were flown in the rehearsals, indicating that this plane is in series production.

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3. The "Type 37", a swept-wing, four-engine, heavy jet bomber, has a fuselage approximately 155 feet long, a wing span of approximately 170 feet, and an estimated gross weight on the order of 300,000 pounds. It is estimated that each engine is capable of developing approximately 15,000 pounds sea level static thrust. The bomb bay, estimated to be 17 feet long and 6 feet wide, is large enough to accommodate one 11,000 pound general purpose bomb or one conventional atomic bomb. The defensive armament is apparently contained in three turrets. The appearance of a radome much larger than the one used on the IL-28 indicates the probable use of improved blind bombing/navigation radar equipment. Fire control radar is probable on at least the tail turret. Antennae suggest that a variety of HF, VHF, and possibly UHF equipment is used. The configuration of the nose section indicates provision for visual bombing. The "Type 39", the medium twin jet bomber, is similar in configuration to the "Type 37" and appears to be in the same size class as the US B-47. Its engines are probably the same as those in the "Type 37". Electronic equipment on the "Type 39" appears to be similar to that on the "Type 37", and its defensive armament also appears to be contained in three turrets.

DIA review(s) completed.

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4. The US B-52 has a length of 156.5 feet and a wing span of 185 feet. Its normal gross weight is 390,000 pounds. It is powered by eight turbo jet engines with a sea level static thrust rating of 8,250 pounds each. It has a maximum bomb load of 50,000 pounds and a combat radius with a 10,000 pound bomb load of 3160 nautical miles. The US B-47 has a length of 106.8 feet and a wing span of 116 feet. Its normal gross weight is 125,000 pounds. It is powered by six (J-47 axial flow turbo) jet engines with a sea level static thrust rating of 5270 pounds each. It can carry one 22,000 pound general purpose bomb or one 10,000 pound special weapon. With the latter weight bomb load it has a combat radius of 1635 nautical miles.

5. The first indication of the existence of the "Type 37" occurred in July 1953 when Western attaches observed an aircraft with tail section and fuselage similar to the B-47. The wing was not attached to the plane, suggesting that fabrication or some type of static tests were then underway. In November 1953, British attaches observed at Kazan, east of Moscow, two aircraft very similar in configuration to the plane now identified as the "Type 39."

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